

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:JGDAY/BJR

APPROVED BY P - MR. SISCO

EUR - AAHARTMAN

/S: MR.ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 165860

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, US, TU

SUBJECT:GREEK PROTEST ON LEGISLATION TO LIFT TURKISH
EMBARGO

1. GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS CALLED ON UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS SISCO JULY 14 TO EXPRESS GOG OPPOSITION TO MORGAN, BROOMFIELD, ET AL BILL (HR. 8454) ON TURKISH EMBARGO. ALEXANDRAKIS INDICATED HIS GOVERNMENT IS SURPRISED AND CONCERNED THAT ADMINISTRATION IS UTILIZING ALL POSSIBLE MEANS TO LIFT THE EMBARGO WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING ASSURANCES ABOUT A CHANGE IN TURKISH STAND ON CYPRUS. GOG IS PARTICULARLY OPPOSED TO SECTION ON REFUGEES AS IT SPEAKS OF RELIEF RATHER THAN OF SOLVING REFUGEE PROBLEM. SUCH LANGUAGE WILL ENCOURAGE TURKS TO PERPETUATE PRESENT SITUATION ON THE ISLAND.

2. IN RESPONSE, SISCO MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:
ATTITUDE OF ADMINISTRATION ON EMBARGO HAS BEEN CONSIST-
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ENT. WE HAVE MAINTAINED IT HAS CIRCUMSCRIBED OUR EFFORTS

IN ANKARA AND IT HAS NOT PRODUCED KINDS OF CONCESSIONS THAT ITS PROPONENTS CLAIMED IT WOULD. FOR PAST FIVE MONTHS, WE HAVE BEEN OPERATING WITH ONE ARM BEHIND OUR BACK, AND WE HAVE NOT BEEN IN A POSITION TO PERSUADE THE TURKS TO SHOW FLEXIBILITY. AS FAR AS HR. 8454 IS CONCERNED, IT

SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND THAT IT IS NOT AN ADMINISTRATION BILL, THOUGH WE HAVE INDICATED WE COULD ACCEPT IT. ADMINISTRATION HAS SUPPORTED SCOTT-MANSFIELD BILL, AND STILL WOULD PREFER HOUSE APPROVAL OF SUCH A BILL. REFERENCE IN HR. 8454 TO RELIEF FOR REFUGEES SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS A CHANGE IN US POSITION. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT REFUGEE PROBLEM MUST BE SOLVED IF THERE IS TO BE A LASTING SETTLEMENT. SECTION IN HR. 8454 ON ASSISTANCE TO GREECE REFLECTS VIEWS OF CONGRESSIONAL DRAFTERS WHO BELIEVE US SHOULD BE HELPFUL TO GREECE ALSO -- A VIEW WHICH ADMINISTRATION SHARES.

3. IN ANSWER TO ALEXANDRAKIS, QUERY ON WHAT SITUATION WOULD BE IF EMBARGO WERE LIFTED AND THERE WERE NO CHANGE IN TURKISH POSITION, SISCO INDICATED THAT WE COULD NOT GUARANTEE GREATER TURKISH FLEXIBILITY, BUT AS PRESIDENT FORD SAID TO PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS IN BRUSSELS, WE WOULD MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO OBTAIN A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. WE HAVE TOLD THE TURKS, BOTH PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY, THAT IF OUR EFFORTS TO REMOVE THE EMBARGO WERE SUCCESSFUL, WE WOULD EXPECT THEM TO MODIFY THEIR POSITION ON CYPRUS. IF THE TURKS FAILED TO SHOW FLEXIBILITY, THEIR FAILURE WOULD GO TO THE HEART OF US-TURKISH RELATIONS.

4. SISCO WENT ON TO SAY THAT WE UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE SENSITIVITY OF GREEK GOVERNMENT AND GREEK PEOPLE ON TURKISH ARMS ISSUE, BUT WE BELIEVE A CONTINUATION OF PRESENT STALEMATE IS NEITHER IN TURKEY'S NOR GREECE'S INTEREST. WE SHARE GREECE'S INTEREST IN AN EARLY AND FAIR SOLUTION TO CYPRUS PROBLEM AND, THEREFORE, WE SEEK A LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WHICH HAS BEEN AN IMPEDIMENT TO OUR EFFORTS WITH THE TURKS. SISCO ALSO ASSURED ALEXANDRAKIS THAT NO ONE IN THE US GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SAYING THE GOG IS INDIFFERENT TO OR IN FAVOR OF LIFTING THE BAN ON TURKISH AID. INGERSOLL
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